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MOTOHAGIO INTERVIEWED

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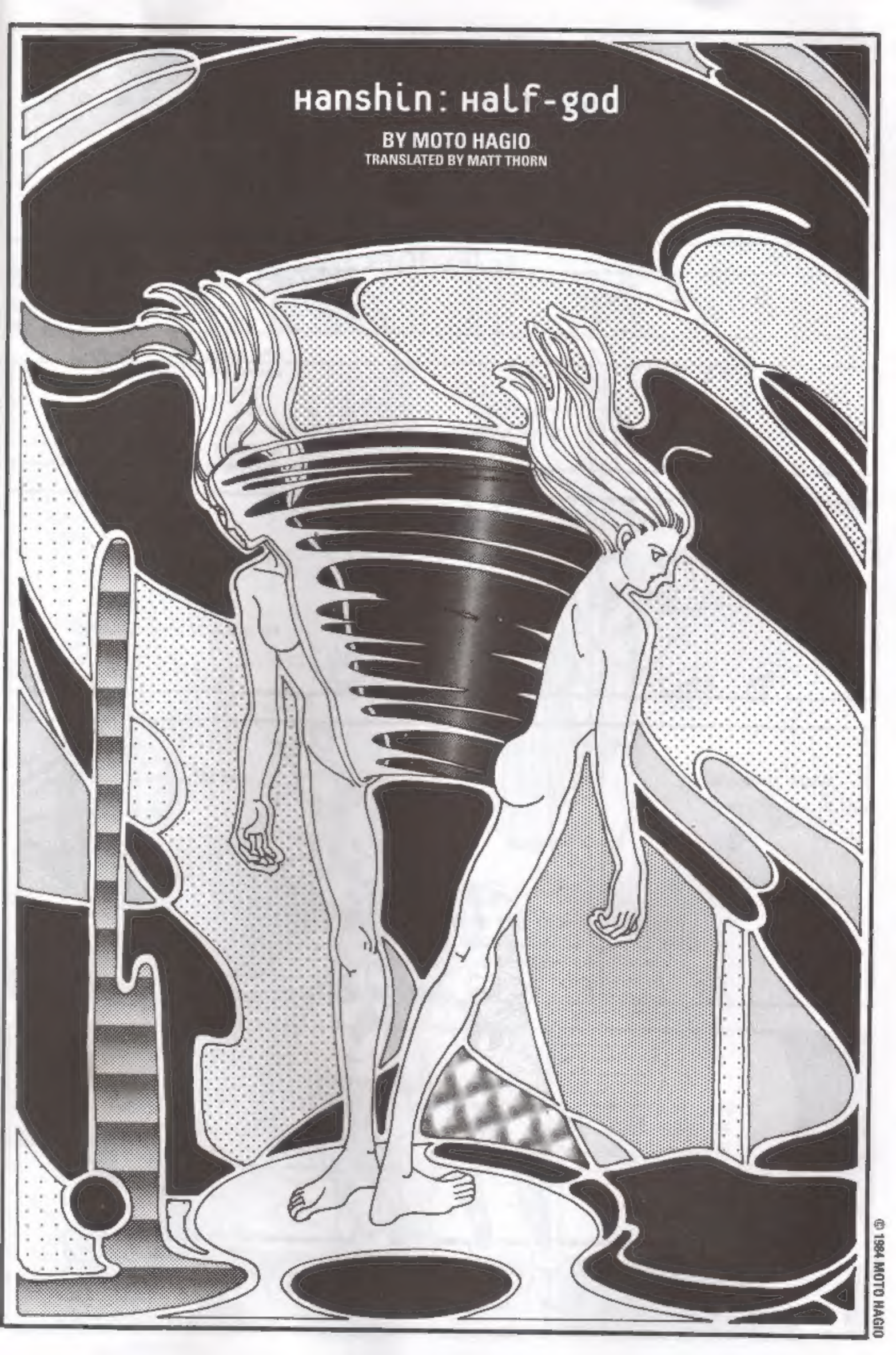
THE MOTO HAGIO GALLERY

「感謝知らずの男」 part2 予告(P32) (表紙のこちらがわです。) 花尾宝都

イヴァナの狼。

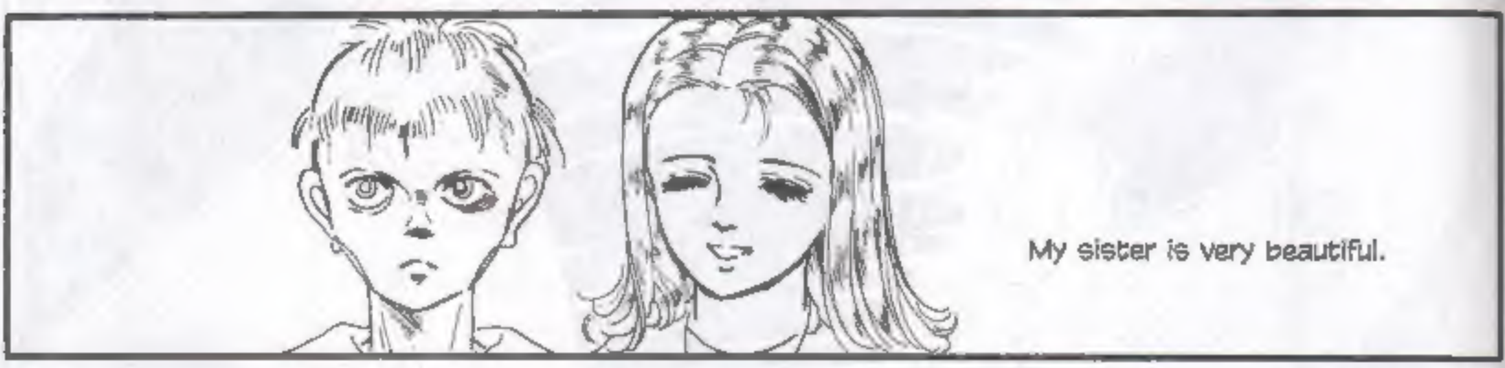
荻尾望都



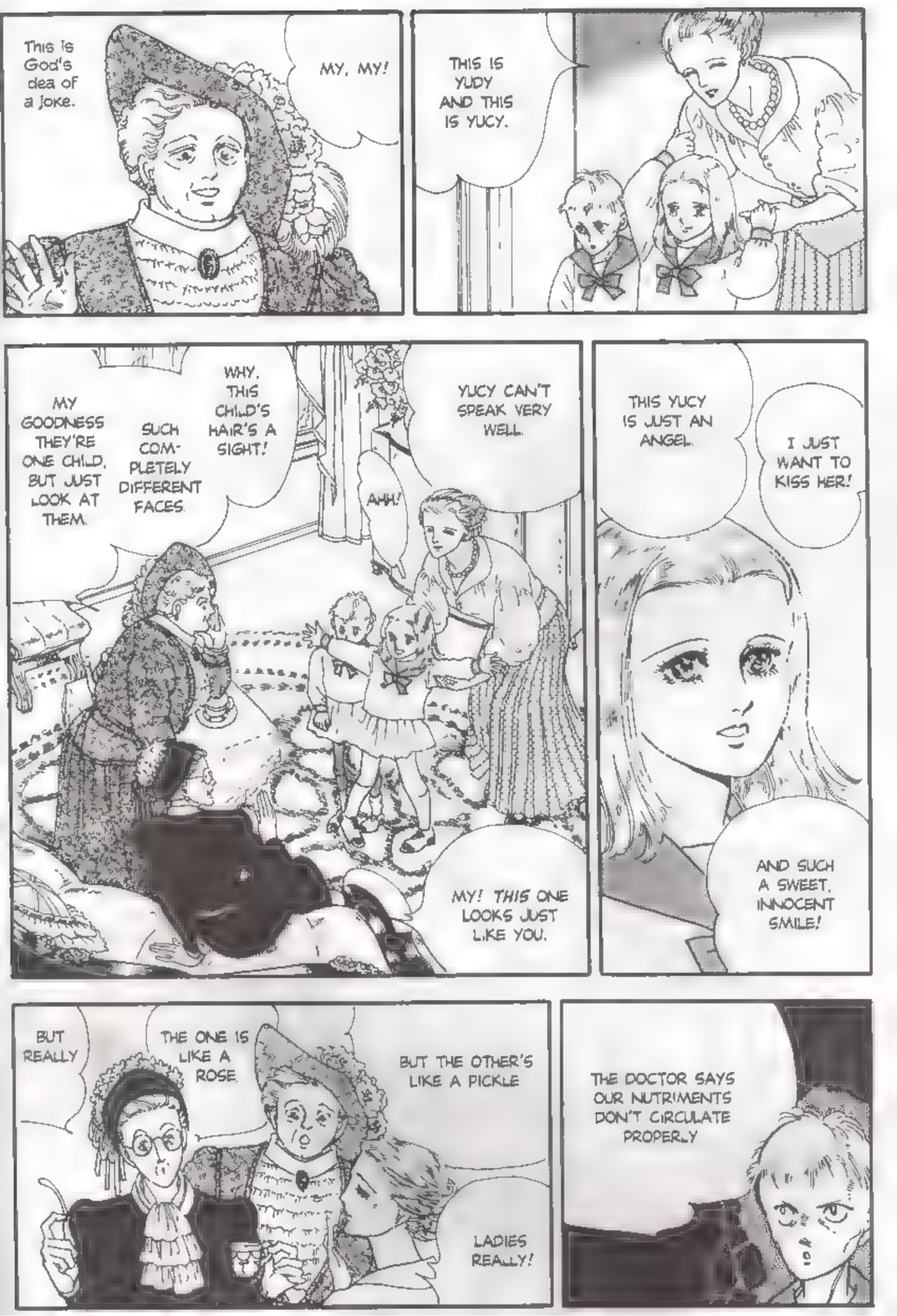
© 1994 MOTO HAGIO

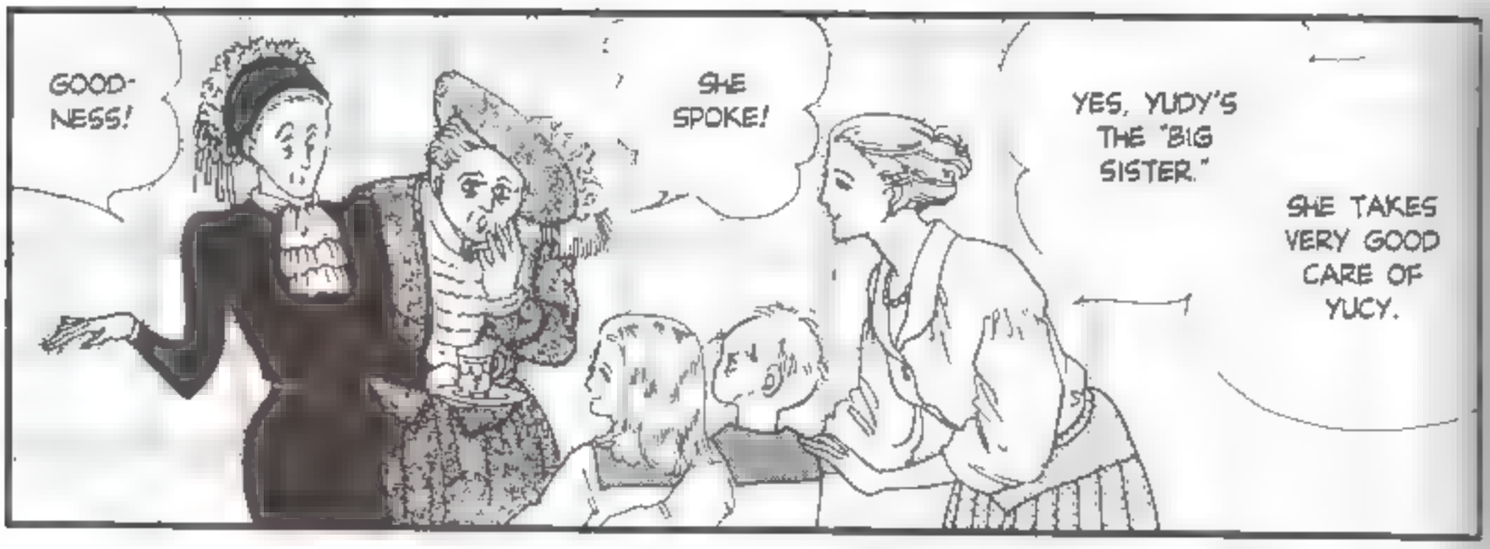
I have a twin sister.

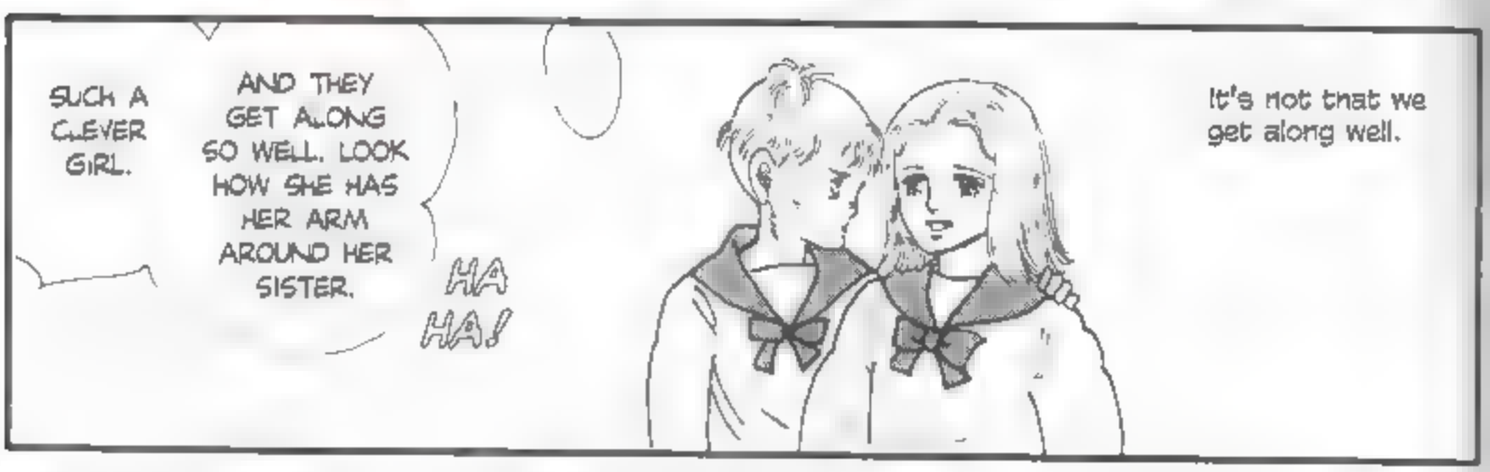
And because of that, my entire life will be a mess.


My sister is very beautiful.

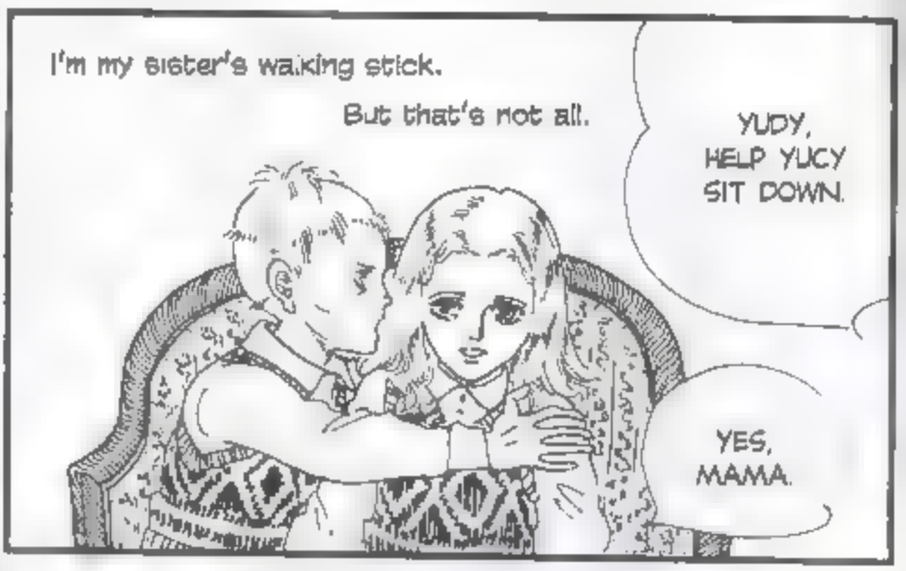
We're monovular...
...and attached at the hip.
We can't be separated.

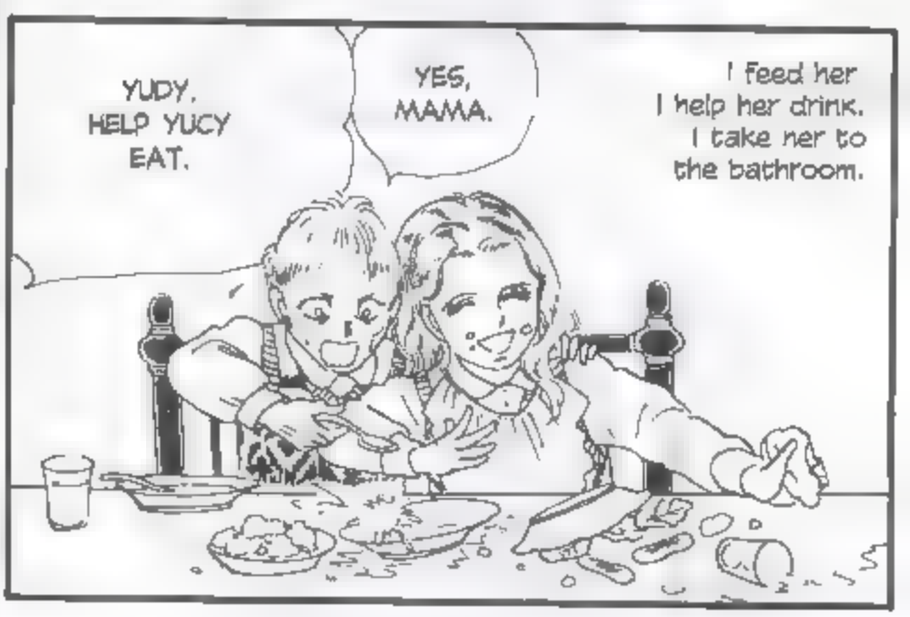

This is God's idea of a joke.
MY, MY!
THIS IS YUDY AND THIS IS YUCY.
MY GOODNESS THEY'RE ONE CHILD, BUT JUST LOOK AT THEM.
SUCH COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT FACES.
WHY, THIS CHILD'S HAIR'S A SIGHT!
AHH!
YUCY CAN'T SPEAK VERY WELL.
MY! THIS ONE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU.
THIS YUCY IS JUST AN ANGEL.
I JUST WANT TO KISS HER!
AND SUCH A SWEET, INNOCENT SMILE!
BUT REALLY
THE ONE IS LIKE A ROSE
BUT THE OTHER'S LIKE A PICKLE
LADIES REALLY!
THE DOCTOR SAYS OUR NUTRIMENTS DON'T CIRCULATE PROPERLY


GOOD-NESS!
SHE SPOKE!
YES, YUDY'S THE "BIG SISTER."
SHE TAKES VERY GOOD CARE OF YUCY.

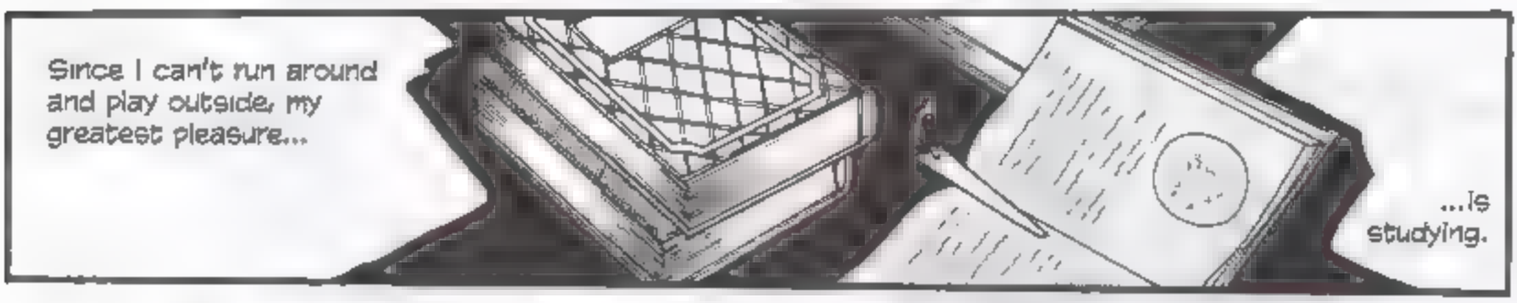

SUCH A CLEVER GIRL.
AND THEY GET ALONG SO WELL. LOOK HOW SHE HAS HER ARM AROUND HER SISTER.
HA HA!
It's not that we get along well.

My sister's legs are weak, and if I don't hold her up, she falls over
YUDY, HOLD ON TIGHT TO YUCY!

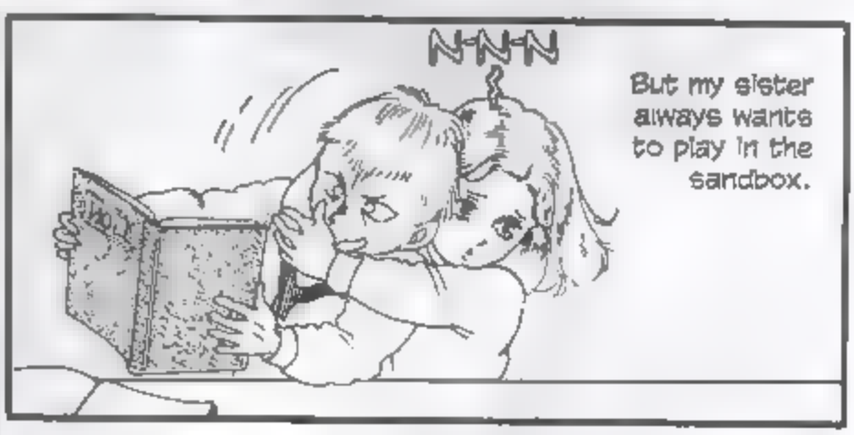

I'm my sister's walking stick.
But that's not all.
YUDY, HELP YUCY SIT DOWN.
YES, MAMA.

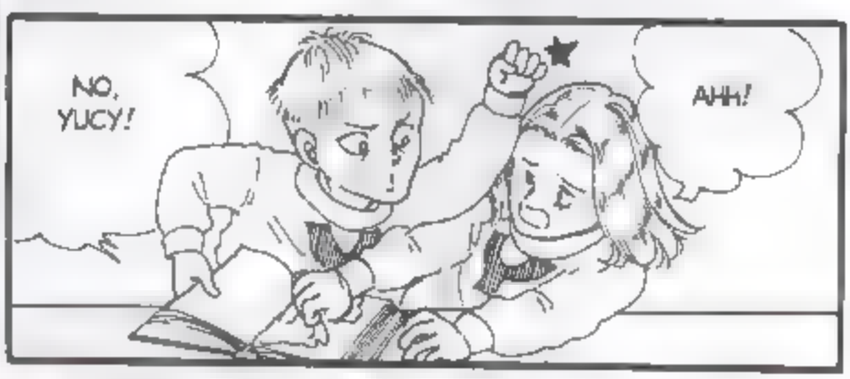

YUDY, HELP YUCY EAT.
YES, MAMA.
I feed her I help her drink. I take her to the bathroom.

A... the little things really add up
WHEE! WHEE!
ULP ULP!
YUDY, MAKE SURE YUCY DOESN'T CATCH COLD.
YUDY?

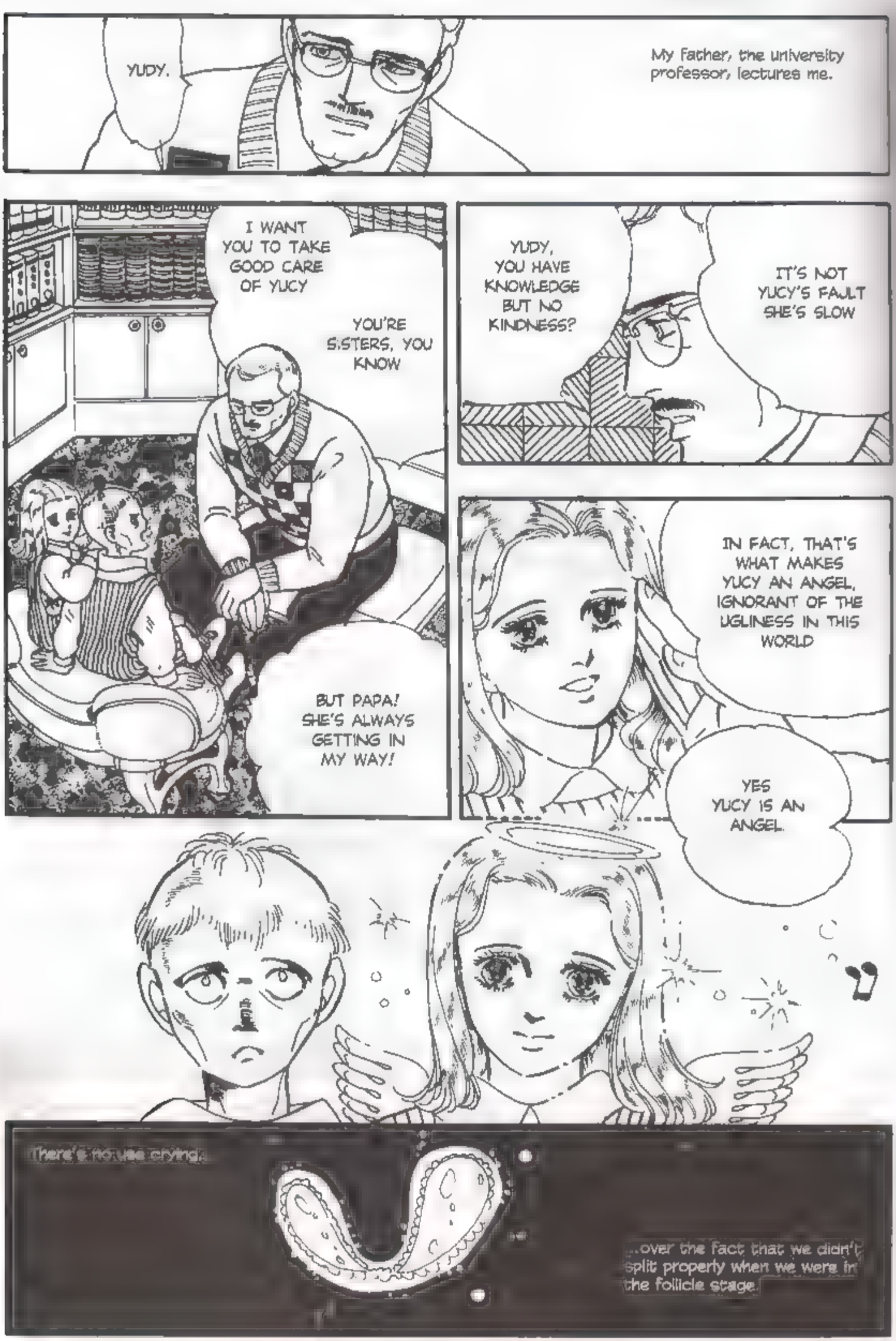

Since I can't run around and play outside, my greatest pleasure...
...is studying.

Unlike my sister, I'm intelligent. I'm particularly interested in genetics.
My tutor says my scholastic ability already exceeds that of a middle-school student.


N-N-N
But my sister always wants to play in the sandbox.


NO, YUCY!
AHH!

WAHHHH
YUDY, DON'T MAKE YUCY CRY.


YUDY.
My father, the university professor, lectures me.
I WANT YOU TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YUCY
YOU'RE SISTERS, YOU KNOW
BUT PAPA! SHE'S ALWAYS GETTING IN MY WAY!
YUDY, YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE BUT NO KINDNESS?
IT'S NOT YUCY'S FAULT SHE'S SLOW
IN FACT, THAT'S WHAT MAKES YUCY AN ANGEL, IGNORANT OF THE UGLINESS IN THIS WORLD
YES YUCY IS AN ANGEL.
There's no use crying.
...over the fact that we didn't split properly when we were in the follicle stage.

My delicate sister often runs a temperature.

YUCY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

LOOK HOW YOU'RE SWEATING.

When this happens, it's me, not my sister, who breaks out in a rash.

YUCY'S GOTTEN OVER HER COLD?

I'M SO GLAD SHE'S FEELING BETTER.

MY, HER CHEEKS ARE SO SOFT AND SMOOTH.

When her fever breaks, she's more beautiful than ever...

...and my skin is all dry and flaky.

My sister sucks away my nutrients like a demon.

Will I have to endure this all my life?

Listening to my sister being praised?

Carrying my sister around?

Being held back by my sister?

Will I spend my whole life living with this frustration?

I'd like to just kill her.

That's how deep my unhappiness is.

When we were thirteen, the doctor said

THE GIRLS PROBABLY HAVEN'T GOT MUCH LONGER TO LIVE

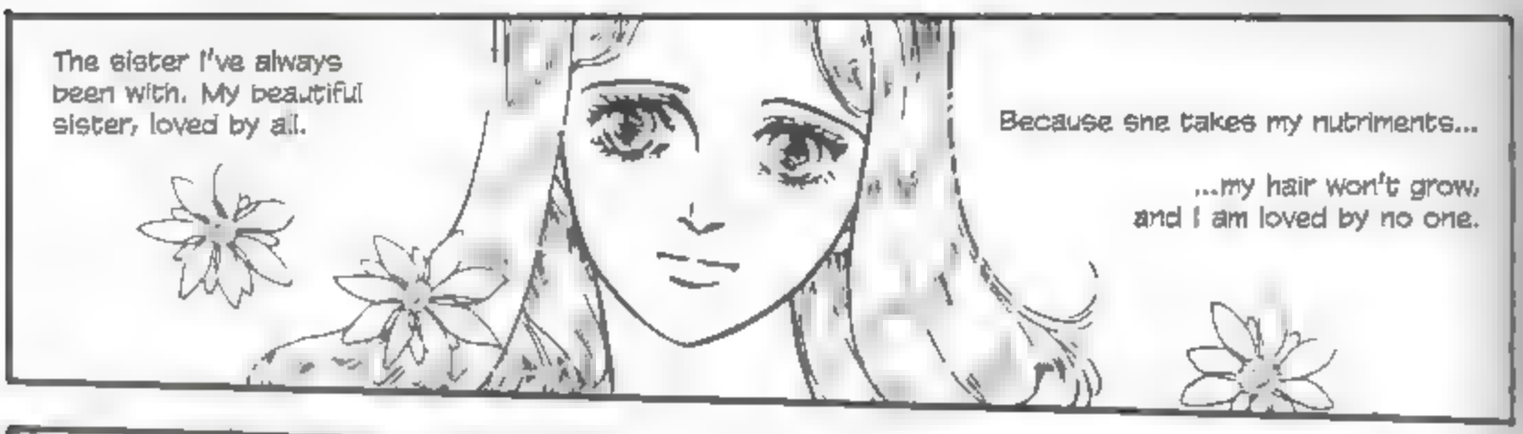
Mother wept.

My sister's too big for me to carry around anymore.

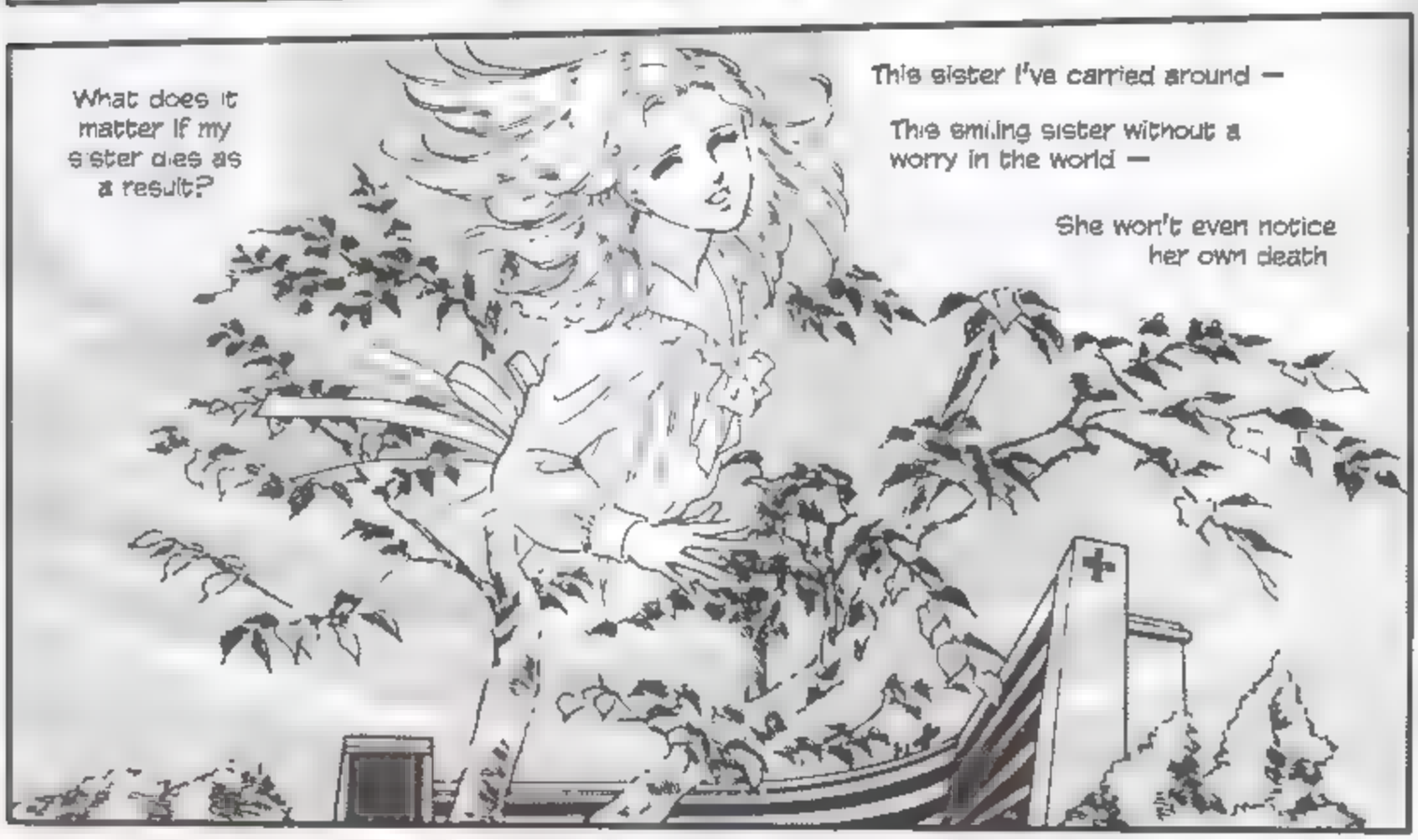
THE ONLY HOPE

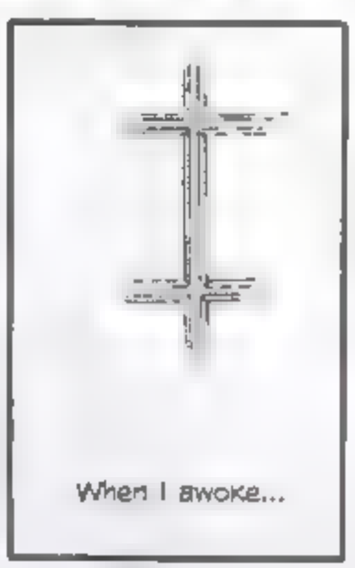
LIES IN SEPARATING THE TWO SURGICALLY.

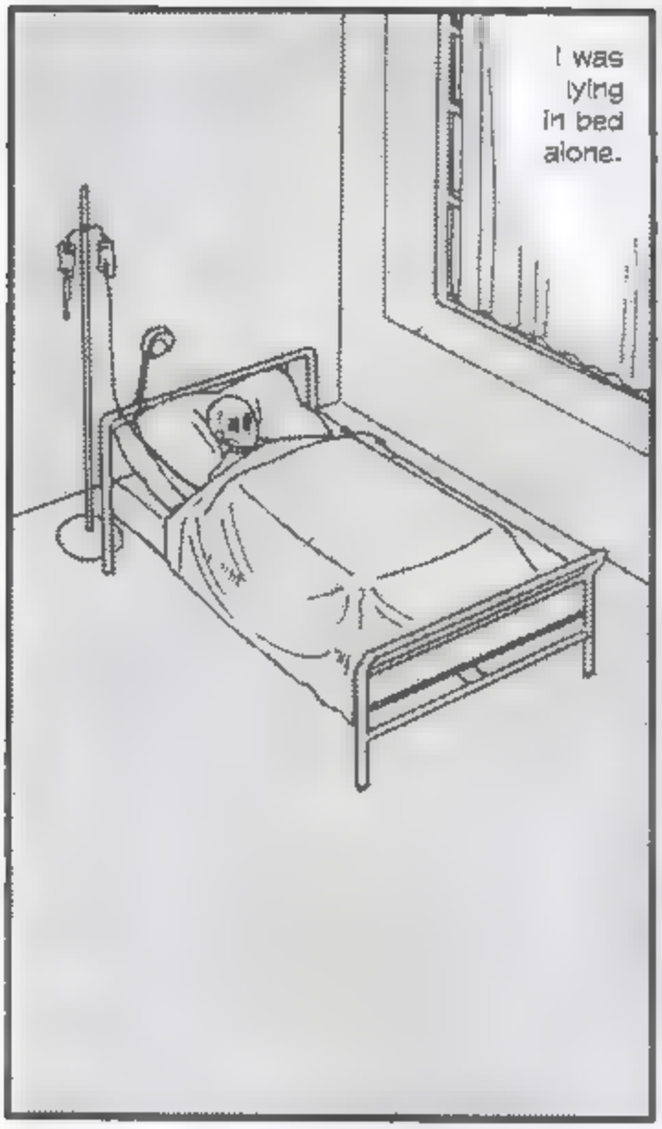
Separate?
My sister and me?
BUT HOW? I THOUGHT OUR PHYSIOLOGY MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO LIVE WITHOUT EACH OTHER.
ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.
YUCY, THIS DEAR ANGEL, CANNOT PROCESS NUTRIMENTS ON HER OWN.
SO MOST OF THE NUTRIMENTS YOU MAKE FLOW OVER TO YUCY.
YOUR ORGANS ARE WORKING CONTINUOUSLY AT FULL CAPACITY AND YOUR HEART AND LIVER ARE EXHAUSTED
BEFORE LONG, YOU'LL DIE
AND WHEN YOU DIE, YOUR SISTER, UNABLE TO PROCESS HER OWN NUTRIMENTS, WILL ALSO DIE.
I THINK WE SHOULD SEPARATE THE TWO OF YOU IN ORDER TO AT LEAST SAVE YOU.
BUT THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS ARE LOW
WILL YOU TRY, YUDY?
We can be separated?
It's a miracle!
Danger?
I don't care about danger!


The sister I've always been with. My beautiful sister, loved by all.
Because she takes my nutriments...
...my hair won't grow, and I am loved by no one.

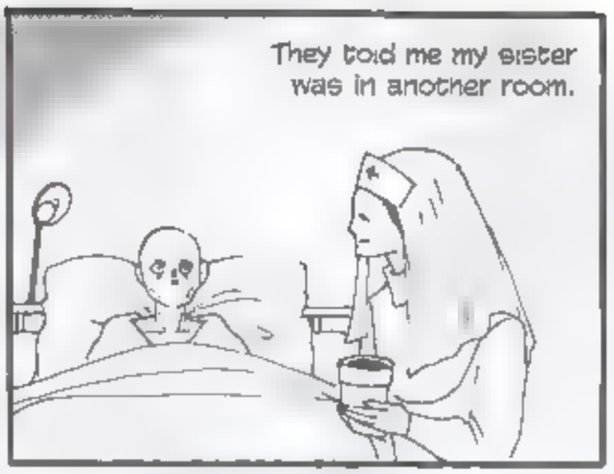
Besides, if we do nothing, we'll both die.
I'll endure the surgery.
...and become an individual!
I'll be free!

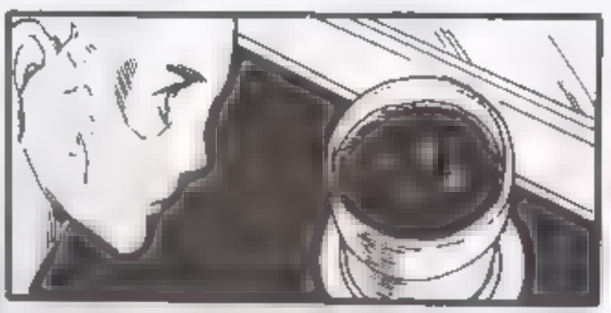

What does it matter if my sister dies as a result?
This sister I've carried around —
This smiling sister without a worry in the world —
She won't even notice her own death


When I awoke...

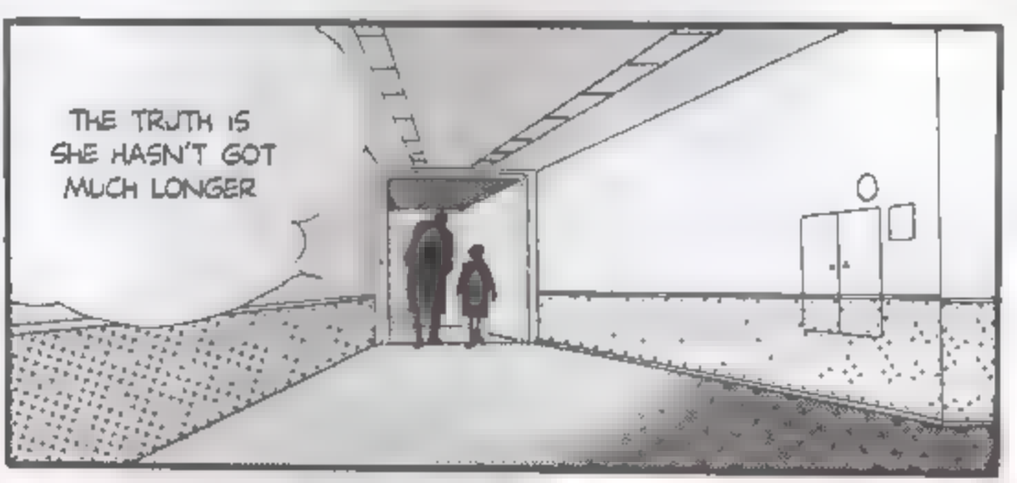

I was lying in bed alone.

I felt as if I'd been dreaming a long dream.

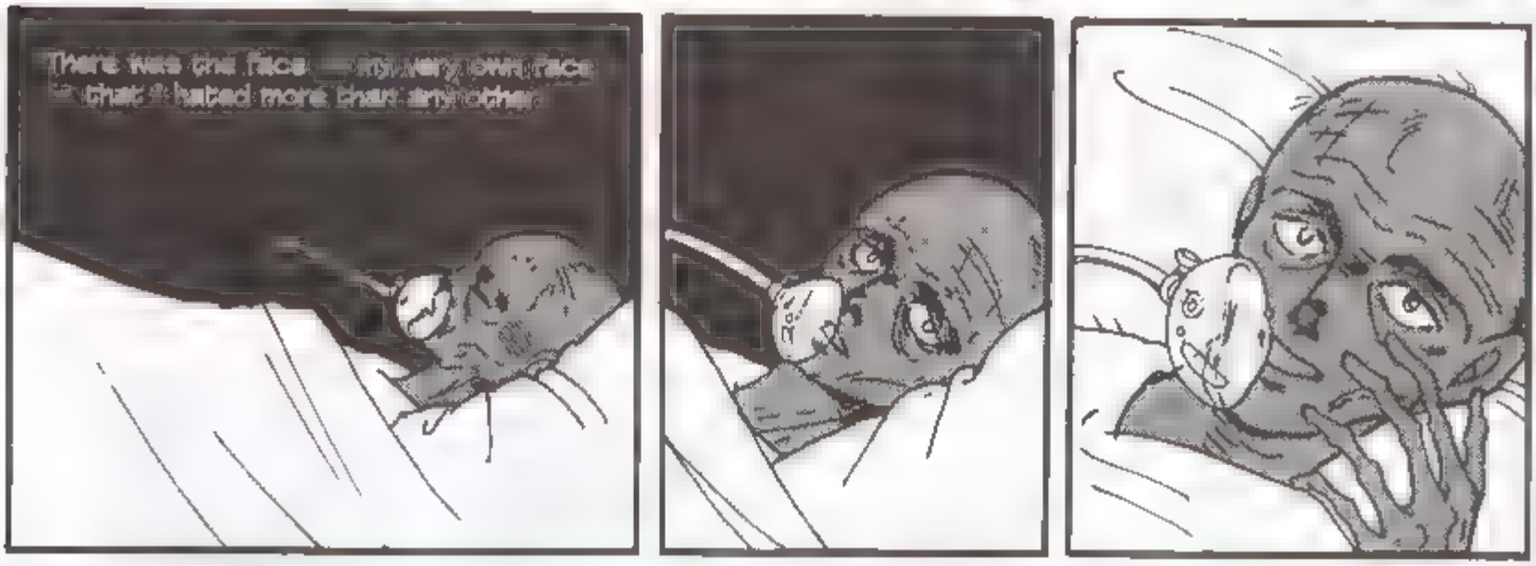

They told me my sister was in another room.



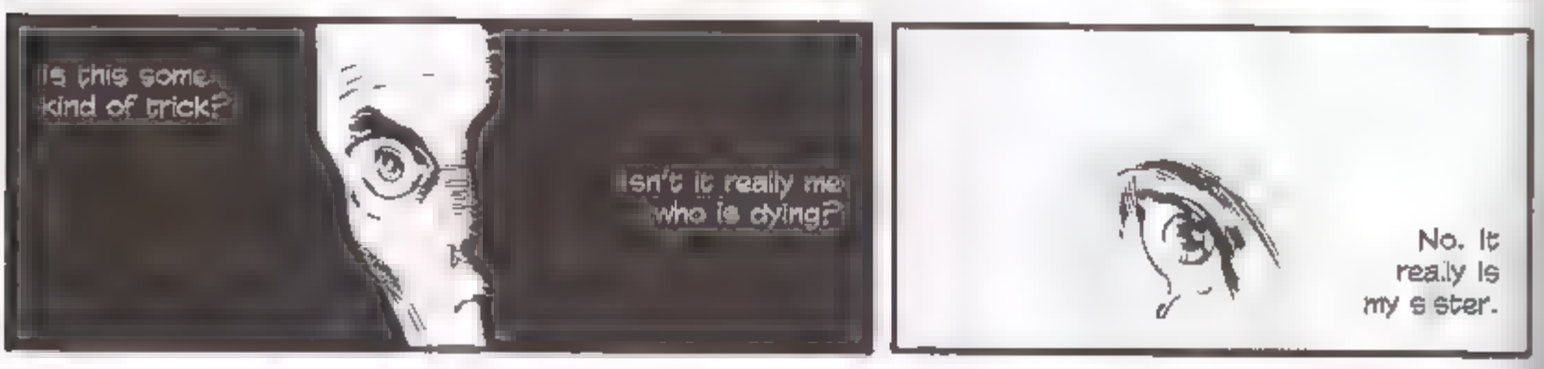
After a month, when I was able to walk, the doctor said,
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR SISTER?


THE TRUTH IS SHE HASN'T GOT MUCH LONGER

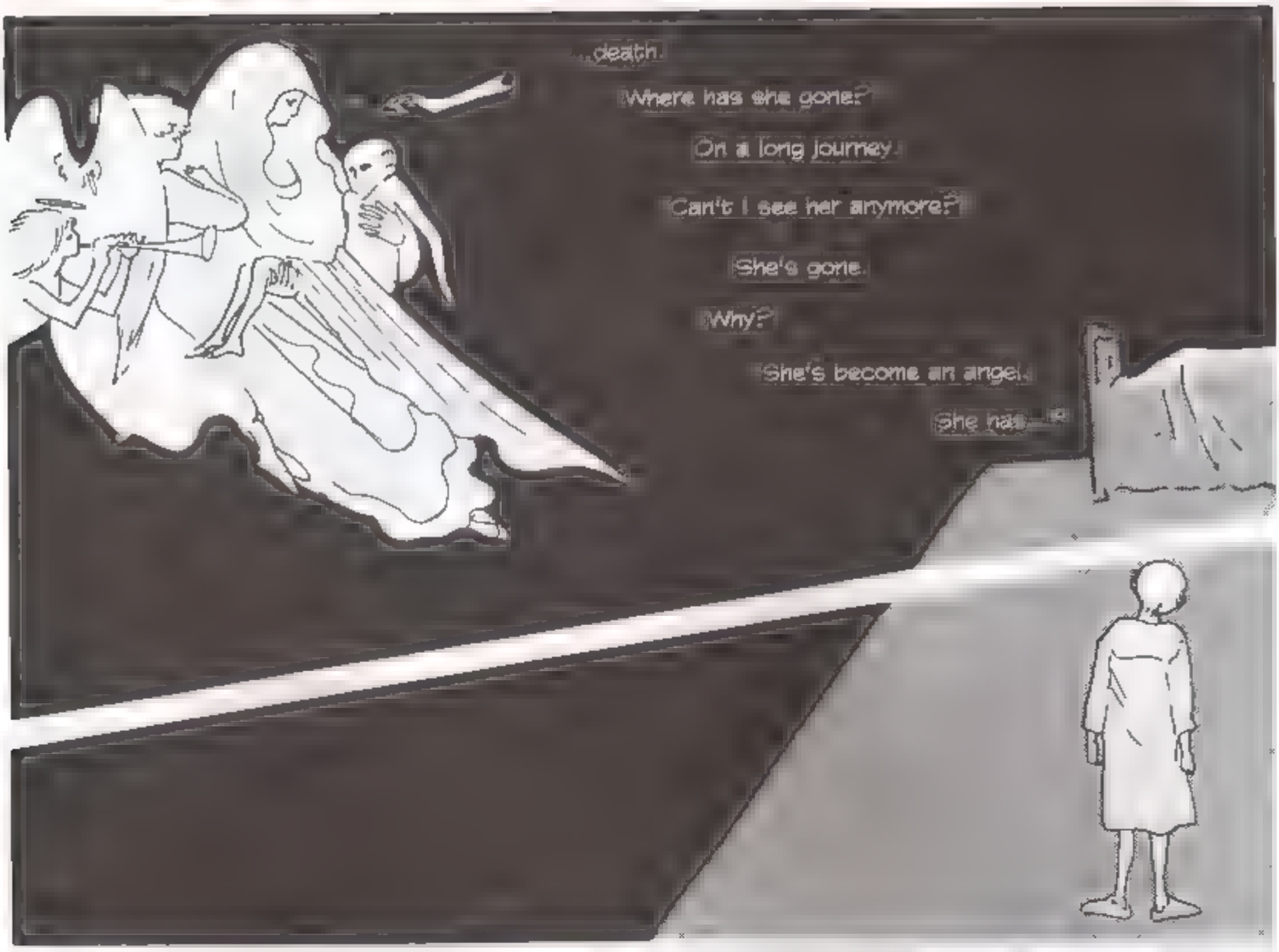
KREE

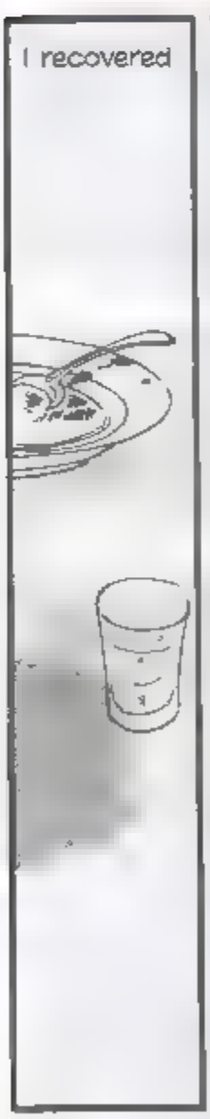

There was the face — my very own face — that I hated more than any other.

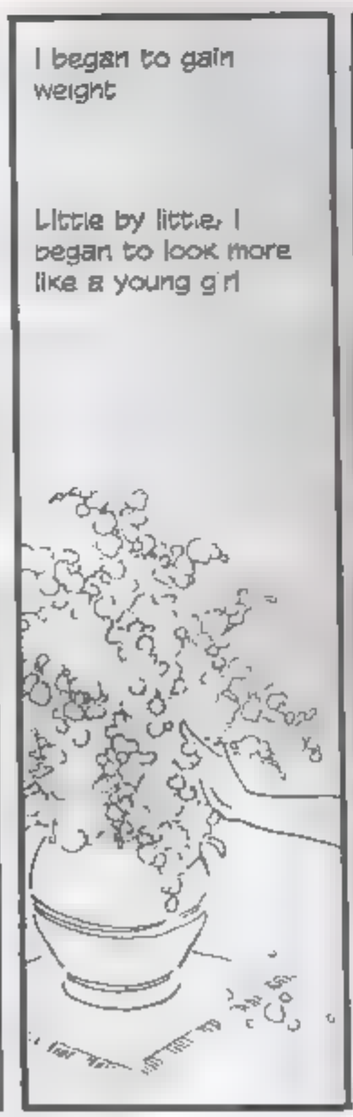
YU


Is this some kind of trick?
Isn't it really me who is dying?
No. It really is my sister.

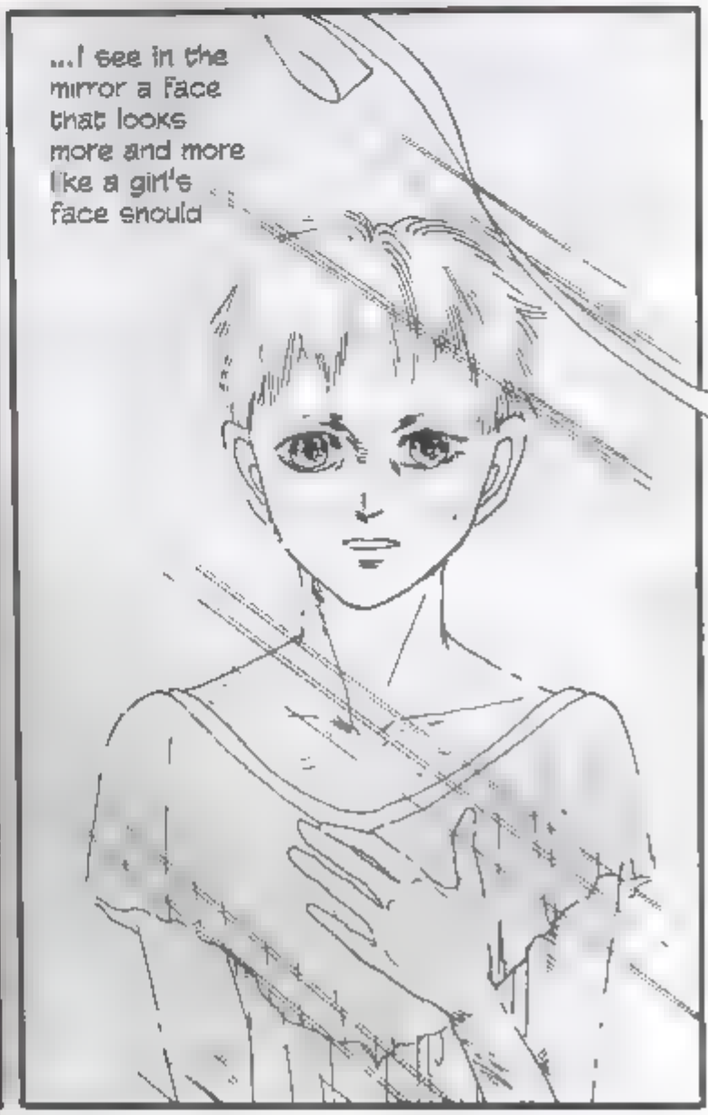
My withered, completely ignorant sister's

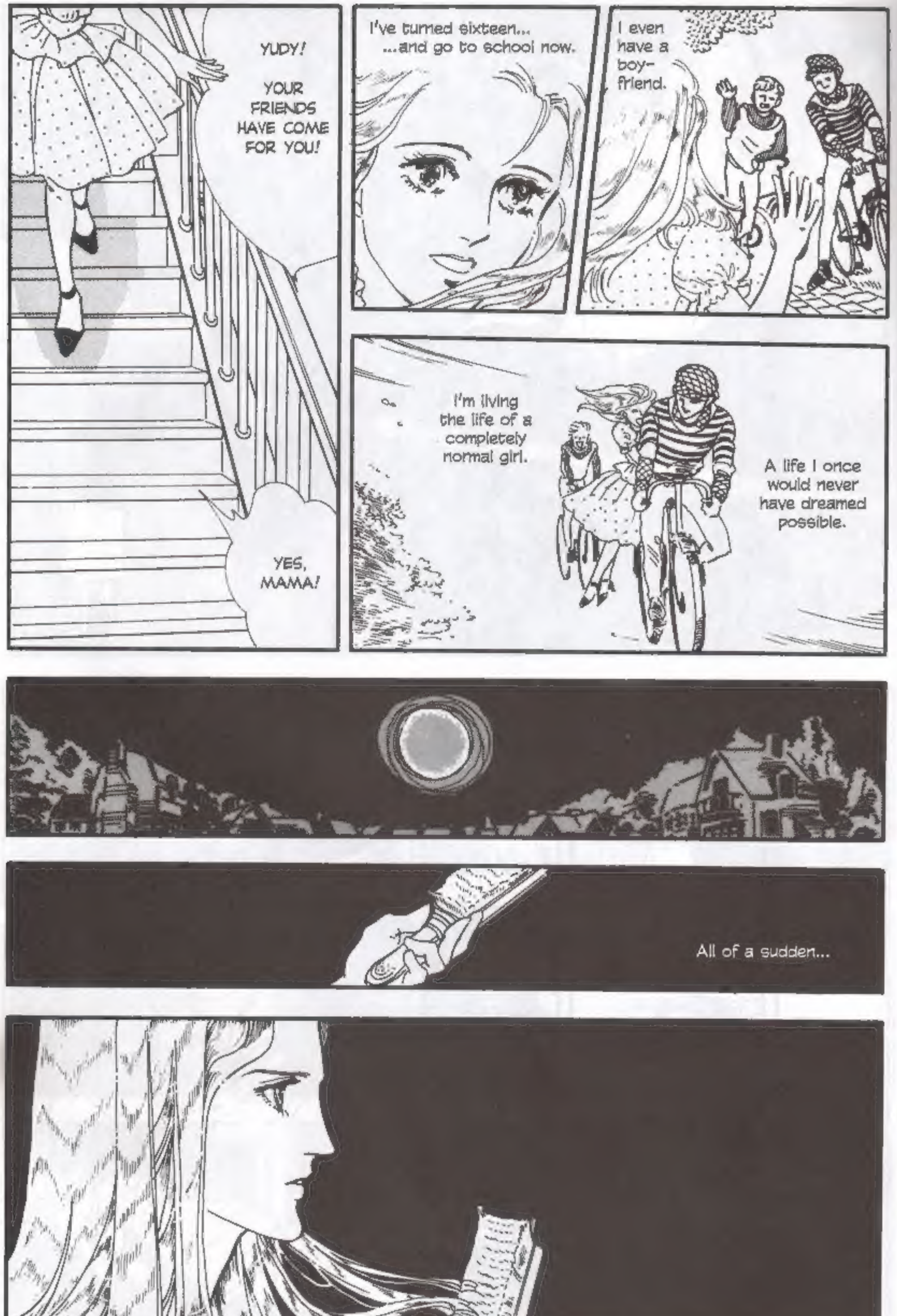

death
Where has she gone?
On a long journey
Can't I see her anymore?
She's gone
Why?
She's become an angel
She has...


I recovered


I began to gain weight
Little by little, I began to look more like a young girl

Everyday...


...I see in the mirror a face that looks more and more like a girl's face should


YUDY!
YOUR FRIENDS HAVE COME FOR YOU!
YES, MAMA!
I've turned sixteen...
...and go to school now.
I even have a boy-friend.
I'm living the life of a completely normal girl.
A life I once would never have dreamed possible.
All of a sudden...

...there in the mirror...

...I find the reflection of the sister I hated so much.

My beautiful, ignorant sister, barely able to walk or speak.

I become confused.

Who...

...was that?

That sister, who shriveled up and died...

That half of my body that was torn from me...

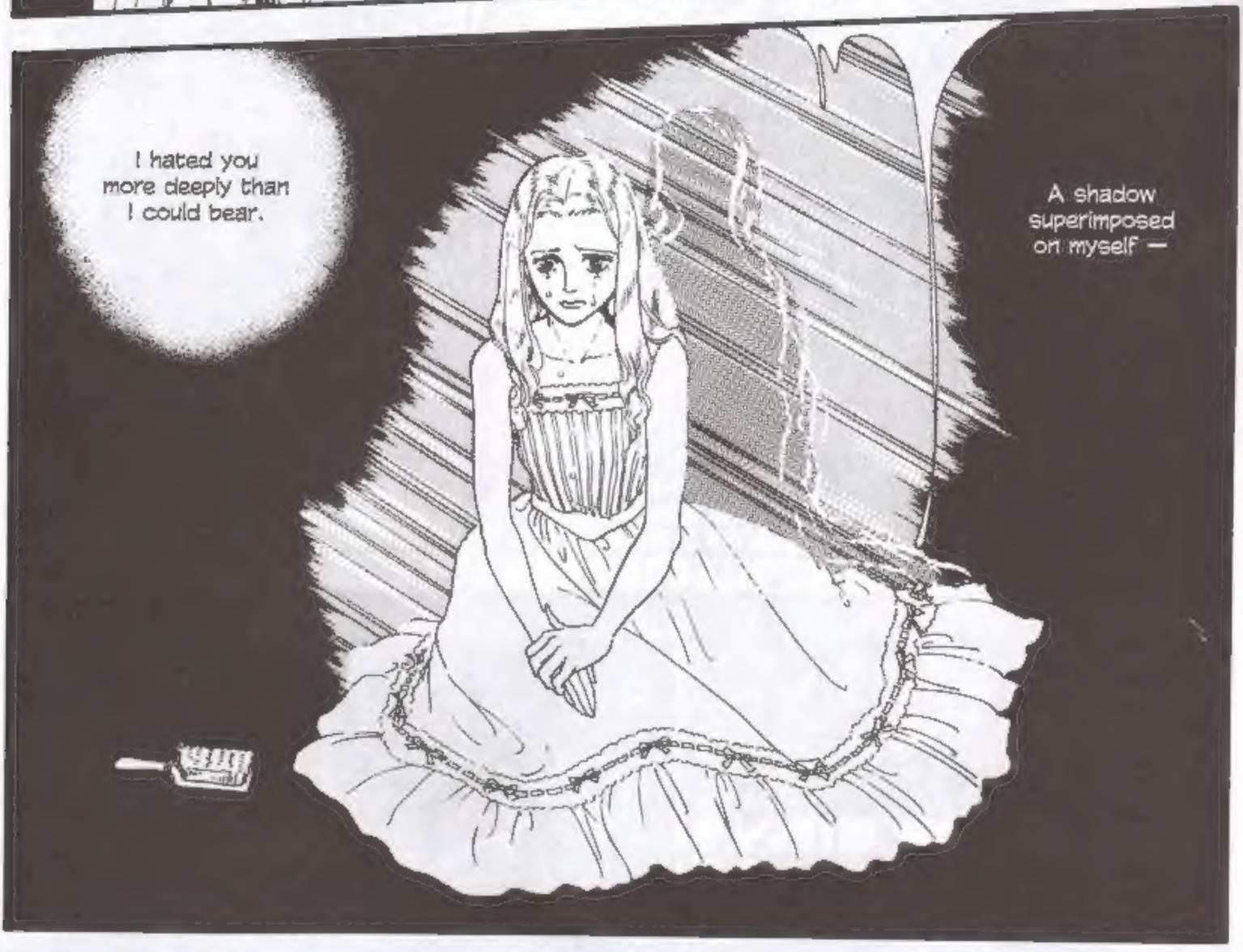
Was that...

...me?

Was that me...?

Well, then, what am I now?

Did half of me die that day...?



FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY 1984 ISSUE OF *PETIT FLOWER*

THORN: *The reason I originally translated "Hanshin" was to use in a presentation I gave at Columbia University on shojo manga. I projected it on the screen and read the English aloud.*

HAGIO: I see.

THORN: *But half way through I became choked up. [Laughter.] I should have known better.*

HAGIO: My, my.

THORN: *That was the last time I tried to read it aloud.*